

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00659 141742Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

/101 W

----- 015415

R 141527Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4513

INFO USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0659

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PKNT IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

REF: REYKJAVIK 0636

1. WITH DISSOLUTION OF ALTHING COINCIDING WITH ENDING OF
PRINTERS' STRIKE, NATIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FOR JUNE 30
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS GOT OFF TO FAST START. CAMPAIGN IS
COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT PREVIOUSLY-SCHEDULED MUNICIPAL ELEC-
TIONS WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 26 AND PARTIES THUS FIND THEMSELVES
FIGHTING TWO SOMEWHAT DIFFERING BATTLES AT ONCE.
MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN WILL INEVITABLY BECOME INVOLVED WITH NATIONAL
ISSUES AND OUTCOME OF THAT ELECTION WILL BE GENERALLY INTER-
PRETED AS INDICATIVE OF OUTCOME TO BE EXPECTED JUNE 30.
FURTHER COMPLICATION ARISES FROM POSSIBILITY THAT PERHAPS AS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00659 141742Z

MANY AS TWENTY ALTHING MEMBERS MAY CHOOSE NOT TO RUN AGAIN
BECAUSE OF AGE OR OTHER PERSONAL REASONS. PARTY LISTINGS

FOR ALTHING ELECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 29 AND INTERNAL DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION IS NOW GOING ON.

2. OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY LED OFF WITH STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON IN WHICH HE SAID HIS PARTY SEES PRIMARY ISSUES IN CAMPAIGN AS BEING PRESENT GOVT'S HANDLING OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE DEFENSE ISSUE, AND HIS PARTY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTENSION OF ICELAND'S FISHERIES LIMITS TO 200 MILES BY END OF 1974. AS FOR IMMEDIATE PROPAGANDA, HOWEVER, IP IS CHARGING PRIMIN JOHANNESSEN WITH HAVING "LIED TO THE PRESIDENT" IN PERSUADING HIM TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISSOLUTION OF ALTHING. BASIS OF CHARGE IS THAT PRIMIN REPUTEDLY TOLD PRESIDENT NO POSSIBLE WORKABLE MAJORITY COULD BE FORMED IN ALTHING. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE HAS BEEN CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT (PRIMARILY FROM OPPOSITION SOURCES) ON GROUND PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED OTHER PARTY LEADERS BEFORE ACCEPTING PRIMIN'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT PRESIDENT'S PRESTIGE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THIS AFFAIR. WHAT REALLY ANNOYS OPPOSITION PARTIES IS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED THAT GOVT RESIGN BUT REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL AUTUMN AND AT ALTHING'S MERCY. OPPOSITION FEELS ECONOMIC SITUATION BY OCTOBER WOULD HAVE DETERIORATED TO POINT WHERE THEY COULD HAVE BENEFITTED GREATLY.

DECISION OF IP TO MAKE DEFENSE A MAJOR ISSUE STEMS FROM OUTCOME OF "DEFENDED COUNTRY" PETITION CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, PETITION WAS SO GENERALLY WORDED AS TO BE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE. IT IS YET TO BE DEMONSTRATED WHETHER SIGNATURES ON THE PETITION CAN BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR IP AND ITS MORE SPECIFIC VIEW ON DEFENSE.

IRVING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740119-0020
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740549/aaaabrms.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 0636
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN KICKOFF
TAGS: PINT, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005